

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY S/MS:MSHULMAN:JLH
APPROVED BY S/MS - DR. SHULMAN
S/S - MR. TARNOFF

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S E C R E T STATE 070455

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, SOPN, US, UR, ET, XF

SUBJECT: BESSMERTNYKH CALL ON SHULMAN MARCH 18

1. SUMMARY. AT HIS REQUEST BESSMERTNYKH CAME IN MARCH 18 TO DELIVER RESPONSE TO THE POINTS MADE BY THE SECRETARY TO DOBRYNIN ON THE HORN IN THEIR MEETING OF MARCH 11. HE ALSO DELIVERED A NON-PAPER ON THE ARAFAT VISIT. SHULMAN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING TO STRESS THE PRO-SALT INTENTIONS BEHIND THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT WAKE FOREST. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NON-PAPER BESSMERTNYKH BROUGHT IN ON THE HORN MAKES THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- SOMALI WITHDRAWAL HAS NOT BEEN A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, BUT RATHER A STEP FORCED ON IT;

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-- AND "THE ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP" REJECTS THE IDEA OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN THE OGADEN BECAUSE OF THE IMPLICIT SUPPORT FOR SOMALI TERRITORIAL CLAIMS WHICH WOULD RESULT.

NON PAPER GOES ON TO CLAIM ABSENCE OF ETHIOPIAN AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS SOMALI, THOUGH IMPLICITLY LINKS IT WITH WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI IRREGULAR UNITS AND

RENUNCIATION OF TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. IT PRAISES
PRESIDENT CARTER'S CALL FOR SOMALI COMMITMENTS NOT TO
"DISHONOR" THE ETHIOPIAN AND KENYAN BORDERS, BUT AGAIN
REITERATES, AT LENGTH AND IN USUAL TERMS, REJECTION OF
U.S. CLAIMS THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN MOTIVES IN THEIR
INTERVENTION ARE ANYTHING BUT THE PUREST.

3. NON-PAPER ASSERTS THAT TO LET EVENTS IN THE HORN
FURTHER BURDEN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WILL DO NEITHER
SIDE ANY GOOD, AND CALLS FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S.
ALLEGED INTEREST IN EARLY ELIMINATION OF NEGATIVE
CONSEQUENCES AND EARLY PROGRESS IN OTHER PRACTICAL
ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

4. NON-PAPER ALSO RATHER SHARPLY CHASTIZES U.S. FOR
CLAIMING, IN "PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTED TO OFFICIAL
SOURCES," SOVIET AGREEMENT TO STATIONING OF FOREIGN
OBSERVERS IN THE OGADEN AND TO REDUCTIONS IN CUBAN
FORCES, ADDING THAT SUCH "MISREPRESENTATIONS" DO NOT
CONTRIBUTE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER AND REDUCE THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS WITH THE U.S.
ON THE QUESTION.

5. NON-PAPER ON THE ARAFAT VISIT OFFERED NOTHING NEW
AND INCLUDED FOLLOWING STANDARD POINTS:

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--SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE,
IN EFFECT, CANCELLED POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARD COMPRE-
HENSIVE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AS MUTUALLY EXPRESSED IN
JOINT US-SOVIET STATEMENT OF OCT 1, 1977.

-- PLO LEADERSHIP VIEWS NEGATIVELY EFFORTS SUPPORTED BY
US TO WORK OUT A SO-CALLED "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES"
AND PLO DISAPPROVES OF ATTEMPTS TO HOLD ANY PRELIMINARY
CONFERENCE UNDER AEGIS OF UN.

-- IN MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS, ARAFAT CONFIRMED READINESS OF
PLO TO TAKE PART IN ACHIEVING COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT IF IT IS RETURNED TO CHANNEL OF COLLECTIVE
EFFORTS, WITH PLO PARTICIPATION AND A CLEAR TURNING
AWAY FROM SEPARATE AGREEMENTS.

6. SHULMAN, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY,
PASSED THE FOLLOWING NON-PAPER TO BESSMERTNYKH ON THE
PRESIDENT'S MARCH 16 SPEECH, AND ORALLY FURTHER REIN-
FORCED ITS MAIN POINTS. BESSMERTNYKH SAID HE WOULD
SEND "PRIVATE MESSAGE" RELAYING THE NON-PAPER AND SENSE

OF THE DISCUSSION TO DOBRYNIN IMMEDIATELY.

BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADDRESS AT WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY ON MARCH 16 SHOULD BE READ AS EMPHASIZING TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ITS DECISION-MAKERS OUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR DEFENSIVE POTENTIAL, AND OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THAT CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE. WHEN OUR PUBLIC IS REASSURED THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, IT WILL SUPPORT FURTHER ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. IF IT IS UNCERTAIN, ITS ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH AGREEMENTS IS PUT IN DOUBT. PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH SHOULD THUS BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORTING A SALT II AGREEMENT, AND FURTHER PROGRESS BEYOND THAT TO EVEN MORE COMPREHENSIVE ARMS
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LIMITATION AGREEMENTS.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT A CAREFUL READING OF THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, RATHER THAN RELIANCE ON EXCERPTS WHICH THE MEDIA MAY CHOOSE TO PUBLICIZE, WILL MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR. END TEXT.

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